

STATINTL

BOSTON, MASS.  
GLOBE

DEC 1 1977

M - 237,967  
S - 566,377**Swan Island**

Swan Island is a good deal more than a few small pieces of real estate in the minds of most Latin-Americans. They have viewed it as an outstanding example of Yankee imperialism for our country to have seized without a vestige of title these islands which Honduras has always claimed.

There is no one act the United States could undertake in Latin-America which would have the impact which the return of the islands will have in our favor. The Swan Island affair has been a favorite weapon of the anti-US forces down there for many years.

It is quite true that the CIA had a propaganda station there which didn't improve our image at all. My understanding is that it was also a staging area for the invasion of Cuba. Handing these islands back to Honduras seems to me to be indirectly a friendly gesture toward Castro.

For an excellent view of US relations with our neighbors down south, see "Between the Eagle and the Bear" by Pedro Madriega, lately of Oxford University.

WILLIAM S. HANNA

Winchester

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# U.S. Agrees to Cede 2 Islets to Honduras

## Three Square Miles of the Caribbean

By RICHARD SEVERO

Special to The New York Times

### SWAN ISLANDS, Honduras

— They were discovered by Columbus in 1500, infested by pirates 200 years later, prized by guano hunters, cultivated by the United Fruit Company, ravaged by hurricane, claimed by a sea captain and a farmer from Massachusetts and by others now forgotten, not to mention at least three countries.

With all that, the Swan Islands remain obscure in a sea of green and blue and pink. They do not appear on most maps.

The islands, Greater Swan, Lesser Swan and a reef called Bobby Cay, lie about 100 miles north of Honduras and are less than 400 miles from Cuba. Their total area is about three square miles.

But their acquisition is a point of honor for Honduras. The nation decided in 1921 that when Columbus stopped at the Swan Islands, reportedly to pick up wood, he made them a part of the Spanish colonial empire, of which Honduras was a part. Honduras claimed the islands, which had been United States possessions since the middle of the 19th century.

It took nearly 50 years for Honduras to convince the United States, seeking to improve its image in Latin America, is convinced.

However, with the agreement of Honduras, the United States plans to keep five Americans on the island. They operate a weather station that tracks tropical storms.

To Donald Glidden, a Swan Islander, this boils down to a question of security. Captain Don, as he is called by the islanders, is 79 years old. He is a powerful, deeply tanned man with white hair and eyes that match the Caribbean sky he has lived under all his life.

"Well, I think it's going to be all right," he said in the soft, dancing English of the Cayman Islands he left 44 years ago. His tremendous hands pushed a needle through thick sailor's canvas.

"You know," he said, "I been caretaker here and I been a man in my time." He talked of the day a British cruiser anchored off Bobby Cay and its captain, a man named Amos Smith, announced that he would raise the Union Jack.

Captain Don said he had told the man "no" and the man went away. Eleven years ago, he shoored off some Honduran students who had come out from the mainland in a small boat to raise the Honduran flag.

Captain Don is married, for the third time. His first two wives died. He has eight children, about 30 grandchildren (he can't remember exactly, he says) and eight great-grandchildren. Many of the islanders are related to him.

He says he owes allegiance not to Britain, the United States or Honduras, but to Sumner Smith, who lives on a 300-acre farm in Lincoln, Mass.

Mr. Smith, who is 81, insists that he owned Greater Swan until the United States took it away from him "without even a thank-you." The title issue is far from clear.

Mr. Smith says that a company in which his father had an interest, the Swan Island

Commercial Company, took title to the islands from Capt. Alonso Adams, who sailed out of Mobile, Ala., in 1893 and came upon Greater Swan by accident.

The Swan Island Commercial Company leased part of the island to the United Fruit Company, which planted several thousand coconut trees. The venture was not profitable and United Fruit pulled out.

In the early nineteen-fifties, the United States was paying Sumner Smith \$300 a year in rent for a weather station he had allowed the Government to build. For a time, he also got some rent out of a radio station, said to be financed by the Central Intelligence Agency, which broadcast anti-Communist messages to Cuba during the nineteen-sixties.

But one day Mr. Smith received a letter from the United States Government. It said the United States was taking sovereignty.

The United States claim apparently dates back to a visit to the islands of George V. White in the early eighteen-fifties. He landed there in the name of the United States. For years later, an American company that he had formed exported guano from the islands, for use as fertilizer.

The United States has since then based its claim to the islands on the Guano Act of 1856, which provided that American citizens who discovered the accumulated bird droppings on unclaimed islands could collect the guano.

Under the same act, the President was empowered to claim the islands as American property. Secretary of State William Seward did so in the name of President Lincoln in 1863.

M - 536,108

S - 709,123

NOV 21 1971

## A guano island

Honduras wins  
secret CIA base

By Thomas B. Ross

Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — After a decade as a center of U.S. cloak-and-dagger activities, a tiny island of bird droppings in the Caribbean is about to be returned to Honduras.

Reliable diplomatic sources said presidential assistant Robert H. Finch will formally give up U.S. claim to the island during his one-day visit to Honduras Monday.

The island, Swan Island, about 100 miles north of Honduras, is composed entirely of guano, the accumulated droppings of sea fowl. It has served as the site of a covert Central Intelligence Agency radio station broadcasting to Cuba during and after the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and later to other points in Latin America.

The sources indicated that final disposition of the station, and whether it will be used again by the CIA, will be subject to further negotiations.

## Claimed in 1863

The United States has claimed the island since 1863 under the Guano Act of 1865 which gave the President the right to designate an unclaimed island as U.S. territo-

ry once an American citizen had discovered guano on it.

The New York Guano Co. was first licensed to collect and sell the island's guano, a valuable fertilizer rich in phosphates. Later an Alabama sea captain and finally the United Fruit Co. set up operations on the island.

The commercial interests were followed by the Weather Bureau, the Federal Aviation Administration and eventually the C.A.

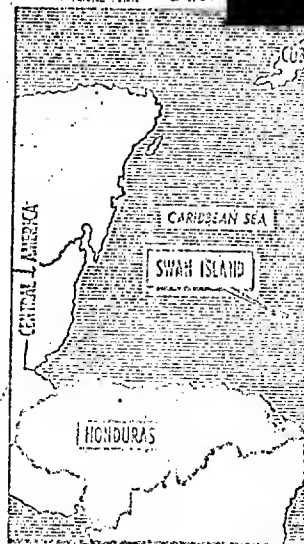
The CIA station originally operated as Radio Swan, which, in addition to political broadcasts, put out a variety of popular programs including one featuring a Cuban exile called Havana Rose.

## 'Hysterical parrots'

During the Bay of Pigs invasion, Radio Swan was on the air 24 hours a day, transmitting coded messages and mysterious orders to nonexistent battalions.

Havana Radio set up a counterbarrage, denouncing Radio Swan as "not a radio station but a cage of hysterical parrots."

After the invasion failed, the CIA station was renamed Radio Americas and continued



broadcasts to Cuba, Mexico, Central America and the upper tier of South America.

Shortly after the CIA established itself on Swan Island, a group of armed Honduran students sought to land on the island by force in 1960. They were repulsed singlehandedly by the weather bureau's cook but, after agreeing to lay down their arms, they were permitted to land, sing the Honduran national anthem and temporarily plant their flag.

## Protest in UN

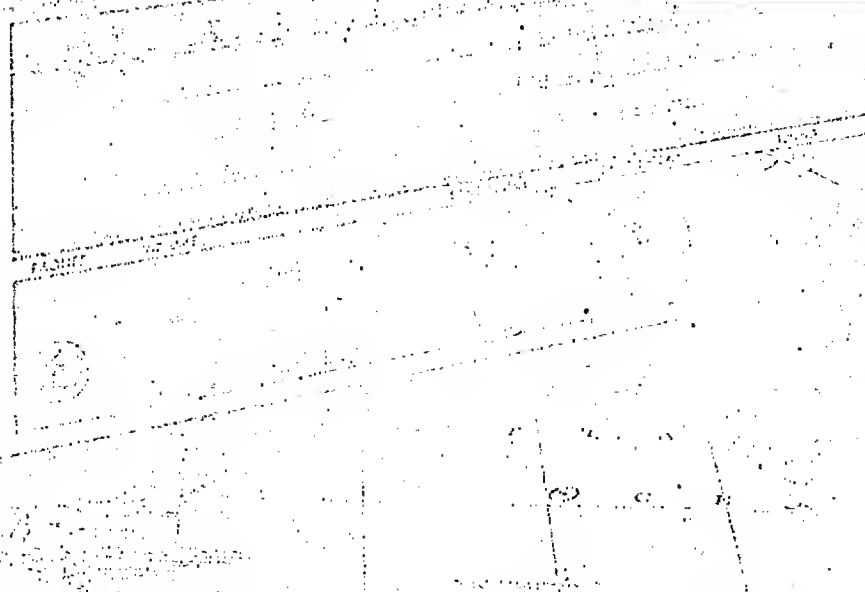
They were protesting the fact that a U.S. census had been taken on the island that year, recording a population of 28, down four since 1950.

A few months later Honduras protested in the United Nations, claiming that "Historically, geographically and juridically" the island belonged to it.

After 10 years of diplomatic bickering, the United States has now recognized Honduras' claim and Finch will make it all official in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, Monday.

Finch will be in Honduras for only a few hours, arriving in the morning from Brazil and leaving in the evening for Mexico. He will return here on Thanksgiving Day after an 11-day tour of Latin American countries.

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Hallicrafters four-band Ster Quest is typical of modern receivers you might use for shortwave. It comes assembled for about \$60.

## HOW TO ENJOY Worldwide Adventures on the Airwaves

Via shortwave, you can bring radio's pirates, bootleggers, even spies into your home

By LEN BUCKWALTER

Captain Kidd, Dutch, Schultz, and Benedict Arnold are dead, you say? Sure, but the likes of these old sea-dreels are still alive and well on the international airwaves. Their weapons are powerful transmitters which often broadcast on a global scale. Their escapades trouble government officials. But the blackguards can be the delight of shortwave listeners.

You don't need a pile of electronic gear to listen in. You can enjoy the pastime with a simple portable that captures strong signals on nothing more than a telescoping whip sticking out of the case. The seasoned hobbyist, though, generally straps an outdoor antenna (a wire 20 to 100 feet long) or goes in for more expen-

sive receiving equipment with special accessories for cutting interference.

The low-cost portable will pick up powerful international broadcasters like BBC, Radio Moscow, and Japan's NHK; the spiley stations may call for a more sensitive instrument.

But whatever your choice, once you have your receiver you can join thousands of fellow listeners who attempt to eavesdrop on rogue broadcasters.

One character is the "pirate," who sails a radio station just outside the 12-mile territorial limit of a country,

*Continued*

Familiarize Yourself with the Airwaves			
Frequency (mhz)	Station	Affiliation	Listener Area
3,500, 4,355	Unknown	CIA	S.E. Asia
2,410, 3,500, 4,365	Radio Liberated Army	Viet Cong	S.E. Asia
11,607, 9,535	Peikol-Iran	Radio Sofia (Bulgaria)	Middle East
9,535, 11,410	Kiss Me Honey (music jammer)	Radio Baghdad	Middle East
8,340	Radio Portugal Libre	Radio Moscow	North America
13,200, 12,300	Radio Cuzhadi	Basque Region of Spain	Europe, N. America
15,000, 15,100	Radio Espana Independiente	Radio Moscow	Europe
17,700, 6,950, 7,050	Kiss Me Honey (music jammer)		
1,465, 7,305	Radio Libre, La Voz del Com.		South, Central America
9,300, 11,305, 15,050	Ministres de America	Unknown	
1,157, 6,000	Radio Americas	CIA	Central, South America
6,135	Radio Havana	Cuba	Central, South America, S.E. Asia
10,030, 10,015	Radio of S. Vietnam	Viet Cong	
7,345	Radio Transnistria, Crethoslovakia	East European	Europe, North America

continued

**TRUE**  
APRIL

# THE MAFIA VS THE

STATINTL



For seven years, our two invisible governments have been fighting for control of the small, impoverished Caribbean nation of Haiti. The outcome is still in doubt.

**BY ANDREW ST. GEORGE**

ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID STONE MARTIN